

Christendom creates Casey scholarship fund

By Dennis Lynch

Daily Staff Reporter

Christendom College announced Wednesday that Sophia Casey, widow of CIA Director William J. Casey, is providing \$150,000 to a scholarship fund.

The money will be used to create the William J. Casey Scholarship Fund, according to Michael H. Lythgoe, the Catholic college's director of development and planning.

The scholarships will allow the college in Warren County to "attract students we wouldn't other wise attract," he said. It is open to students of any of the college's eight majors.

The gift is the first step toward a \$300,000 goal the college has for the endowment. Lythgoe said the plan is to raise the money by 1993.

Interest from the endowment will fund the scholarships, which will be worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year, he said. Tuition and room and board at the four-year liberal arts college is about \$10,300 this year.

Students also will be required to participate in the college's political Pratica program, a yearlong course that consists of seminars and an internship, "practical, hands-on experience" in government, Lythgoe said.

He said the fund is "a tribute to a man who did good academically," in the field of public service and to his family. "A man of very broad interests and accomplishments. That's what we think is so worthy of emulating."

The first recipients of the Casey scholarships were recently chosen, Lythgoe said. Jean Penefather of Manassas is a sophomore and Ben Cameron, a government major from Kokomo, Ind., is a senior.

Lythgoe said Mrs. Casey was "most interested in something that would celebrate the spirit of her husband in a unique way." Knowing that, the college offered a scholarship fund, "which will continue to offer benefits to students in perpetuity," he said.

The award will be formally announced during a black-tie dinner at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C., next month. Frank Shakespeare, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, will be the emcee and syndicated columnist and former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick will be one of the guest speakers.

Lythgoe said controversy about Casey's character stirred up by the book "Veil" by Washington Post editor Bob Woodward will not make people reluctant to give to the fund

The Washington Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Washington Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
New York Daily News _____
USA Today _____

The Chicago Tribune _____

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Lythgoe said there are doubts on the parts of many, including the Casey family, that Woodward could have obtained the numerous interviews he claimed, including deathbed conversations with Casey, who was suffering from a brain tumor and a stroke.

The endowment is Mrs. Casey's second major contribution to the college. The William J. Casey room in the school's library was dedicated in November 1988.

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times AS _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

Date 2A Aug 1990

In search of

Bob Woodward, legendary for his interviews with subjects who subsequently slip beyond the pale, told the author of a soon-to-be-published biography of William Casey that he's protecting a mysterious someone by not revealing all the details of his hospital interview with the late CIA chieftain.

Mr. Woodward said that he had help getting into Mr. Casey's hospital room and that Mr. Casey's widow, Sophia, has not told the truth when maintaining that she and her daughter were at her terminally ill husband's side throughout the ordeal.

Ten people the author of the new book talked to said they couldn't understand Mr. Casey's words as the illness became more severe. Mr. Woodward said that when he didn't understand something Mr. Casey said, he asked him to repeat it. Even dying people have good moments and bad moments, Mr. Woodward maintained.

Mr. Woodward's account of Mr. Casey's "confession" said part of the communication included a nod and a grunt. Mr. Casey had just come from an operation at the time. Is Mr. Woodward satisfied that his interpretations of the gesture and the sound are correct?

Mr. Woodward said he got it exactly right and then backed off a bit, thought about the significance of the nod and about the fact that Mr. Casey was just out of the operating room. But he stuck to his guns. His hole card is this unknown person who helped him get into Mr. Casey's room.

The mystery helper could settle the matter by breaking silence, Mr. Woodward said. Well, whoever you are, the phone number here is 636-3258 and the machine will take a two-minute message any time, day or night.